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The Director

Sir:

In response to your question concerning possible disadvantages connected with consolidated and standardized polygraph training, the Office of Security has added one paragraph on "disadvantages" in paragraph 12. Paragraph 3.(B) has also been added to give added weight to the need for in-house training.

Isl JOHN IN INCIMHON

John N. McMahon Acting ADD/A

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Material on the Agency's Use of Polygraph to the House
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24 JUL 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

VIA : Deputy Director for Management and Services

Deputy Director for Science

and Technology

Director of Medical Services

General Counsel Legislative Counsel

FROM Director of Security

SUBJECT : Release of Material on the Agency's

Use of Polygraph to the House

Committee on Government Operations

1. Action Requested: It is requested that you approve the attached unclassified responses to questions asked of the Agency following the 5 June 1974 testimony on polygraph before the Foreign Operations and Government Information Subcommittee, House Government Operations Committee.

2. Basic Data:

- a. On 5 June 1974 Mr. Harold L. Brownman, Deputy Director for Management and Services, testified before the Foreign Operations and Government Information Subcommittee on the use of polygraph within CIA. The Agency received follow-up questions during the month of July.
- b. We have drafted the attached material for your consideration and propose its use as the required response.

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- 3. Staff Position: We believe this material is responsive to the Committee's request. It was coordinated with the Director of Medical Services and the Office of Research and Development, DD/S&T.
- 4. Recommendation: In view of the above, it is recommended that you approve the use of the attached material as the Agency's response to the July questions of the Subcommittee.

Charles W. Kane Director of Security

Att

STA

SUBJECT: Release of Material on the Agency's Use of Polygraph to the House

Committee on Government Operations

CONCURRENCES:

Carl E. Duckett
Deputy Director
for
Science and Technology

Date

John R. Tierven M.V.

John R. Tietjen
Director of Medical Services

26 JUL 1974

Date

s/ John S. Warner

John S. Warner General Counsel 3 0 JUL 1974

Date

George L. Cary, Jr.
Legislative Counsel

Date

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8 AUC 1974

HAROLD L. BROWNMAN
Deputy Director
for

Date

Management and Services

SUBJECT: Release of Material on the Agency's Use of Polygraph to the House Committee on Government Operations

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QUESTIONS FOR THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

- 1. What is the nature of research by CIA into the subject of polygraph testing and have inquiries been made to DOD to ensure that there is no duplication of that department's research effort?
- 2. What are the results of the research already performed, and what research is currently under way or planned for early performance?
- 3. Are there any peculiar training requirements for CIA polygraph examiners that require an in-house training program, separate from those of the FBI or the Army?
- 4. Are individuals who undergo polygraph tests told of the results of those tests and of the conclusions of the examiner?
- 5. Why is the individual undergoing the polygraph test told, only if he inquires, whether or not the examination is being monitored or recorded?
- 6. In fiscal year 1974 has information from or the results of CIA-administered polygraph tests been made known to other Federal agencies or offices in the Executive Branch? Under what circumstances?
- 7. Is it a requirement, prior to an individual being given a polygraph test, that he be examined by a physician and by a psychiatrist or psychologist? Are such examinations more than an interview?
- 8. Would you recommend such prerequisite examinations be adopted Government-wide, by all agencies administering polygraph tests?
- 9. To what extent are full and free discussions by CIA personnel with the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board inhibited by the fact that neither the members of that board nor its Executive Secretary nor any of the Board's employees must take and pass a polygraph test as a condition of appointment or employment?

Questions for the CIA

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- 10. Why is it necessary for CIA to use polygraphs for preemployment screening when the State and Defense Departments and the FBI do not believe it is necessary for their many sensitive jobs?
- 11. The top two officials of CIA are not required to undergo polygraph testing yet all other CIA officials and employees are. What possible justification could there be for testing all the Indians but not the two biggest Chiefs?
- 12. What are your views on the advantages that could accrue if responsibility for polygraph examiner training were to be assigned to one agency, consolidated at one or two locations, and standardized as to length, course content, and examining techniques?

TAB

1. The CIA's polygraph research effort was comprised of an internal data collection program and an external experimental program. The internal program's goals were: (a) to develop a technology to objectively measure and classify the polygraph signals and (b) to assess the utility, reliability and validity of the polygraph to the Agency in its security practices for employment screening. The external program examined: (a) new sensors; (b) alternate modes of question presentation and/or subject response; and (c) various analytic techniques for chart interpretation. The external studies also addressed the issues of reliability and validity.

The external research effort was coordinated with DOD through attendance at meetings of the Joint Services Group established by the DOD to monitor research. Though the data base of the internal research program was not shared with the DOD members, they were kept apprised of technical developments and problems.

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the studies. By and large, the studies demonstrated that: (a) there is a rational and scientific basis for polygraph; (b) the polygraph is an effective detector of stress (though clearly not infallible); and (c) while several new sensors showed promise, none was sufficiently so to warrant changes.

STA

The current research effort will examine techniques to identify attempted countermeasures. This program was only recently undertaken and there are no results thus far.

- 3. This question must be answered in three parts.
 - (A) There are no peculiar training requirements that require an in-house training program separate from those of the FBI or the Army when training is considered to be limited to familiarization with the mechanical aspects of instrumentation, instrument operation and chart interpretation.
 - (B) For our needs, the training of an individual must be integrated into a closely supervised, carefully progressive on-the-job program before a determination can be made that he is qualified. We can only do this in-house.

(C)	There are also peculiar training requirement which indicate the advisability of a CIA in-house training program when the full scope of application of the polygraph program in CIA is considered. CIA				
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3.	This	question	must	be	$\hbox{\tt answered}$	in	two	parts.
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- (A) There are no peculiar training requirements that require an in-house training program separate from those of the FBI or the Army when training is considered to be limited to familiarization with the mechanical aspects of instrumentation, instrument operation and chart interpretation.
- (B) There are peculiar training requirements which indicate the advisability of a CIA in-house training program when the full scope of application of the polygraph program in CIA is considered. CIA

STA

- 4. No.
- 5. The polygraph interview situation itself serves as a disturbing stimulus to many people and the additional apprehension which may accompany the knowledge that they are being recorded or monitored is counter productive to the efforts of the polygraph examiner to put the individual at ease. For this reason only, the information is not volunteered by the polygraph examiner to each individual. The individual is told truthfully whether or not the interview is being monitored or recorded whenever the question is asked.

Following discussions with the Subcommittee on this issue, the Agency has initiated a procedure whereby each applicant will be informed in writing prior to polygraph interview that the polygraph test may be monitored and recorded for purposes of accuracy. We plan on including a statement to this effect in the polygraph agreement which is provided to each applicant before the test. A copy of the modified polygraph agreement is attached. This proposal has now been presented to our Office of General Counsel for coordination.

6. CIA releases information derived from polygraph tests only on request of federal employers. In fiscal year 1974, CIA disseminated information resulting from CIA polygraph tests in 7 cases. In each case, the individual involved was employed or assigned in a civilian or military capacity to a federal department or agency involved in sensitive intelligence affairs or requiring sensitive information in the national interest. Authorization to release this information was obtained in each case from the Deputy Director of Central Intelligence. Subsequent to the

authorization, information was passed verbally through established security channels for investigative lead processing only. The receiving department or agency was then to conduct its own independent investigation to substantiate the lead provided by CIA.

- 7. This question must be answered in two parts.
 - (A) The procedure followed by CIA in processing an applicant for employment has been structured so that physical examinations and psychiatric screenings are performed prior to the polygraph interview.
 - (B) The examinations are more than interviews.

 The examinations are good physical examinations which assist in the determination whether or not the applicant is physically fit for that category of duty for which he is contemplated. Applicants are also psychiatrically screened. Where a mental problem is indicated, a full-fledged evaluation is made.
- 8. Although the CIA orders its processing so that all candidates for employment are first given medical examinations and screened psychiatrically and believes this is a sound procedure, the CIA refrains from commenting on procedures of other government agencies in administering polygraph tests and from recommending a course of action to be adopted government wide.
- 9. Full and free discussions by CIA personnel with the PFIAB are not in any way inhibited by the fact that associated personnel are not polygraphed as a condition of employment or appointment.
- 10. The CIA respectfully refrains from comment on the applicant processing procedures of the Department of State,

the Defense Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The CIA has found the use of the polygraph to be a positive assistance in employment screening and personnel investigation. The loss of the polygraph program would have a negative and undesirable effect on the continued secure operations of the Agency.

- 11. There are only two positions in CIA filled by the President by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. These appointees are subject to whatever screening procedures may be prescribed by the President, or suggested by Congress and approved by the President. Therefore, it does not seem appropriate that CIA require additional screening procedures, such as the polygraph test, for these appointees.
- 12. There are some advantages that could accrue if responsibility for polygraph examiner training were to be consolidated and standardized. Among these are:

Selection of best training personnel available.

Establishment of criteria for examiner qualifications.

A better overview of government's polygraph requirements and applications.

A potential for contact with commercial efforts on polygraph research, developments and application.

A pooling of experience.

A focal point for government sponsored polygraph research, development and application.

A possible financial advantage.

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As to disadvantages:

A consolidated school would, of necessity, be limited to presenting a general curriculum of polygraph training not designed to accommodate special requirements unique to a specific government agency. As explained in our response to Question 3, a general curriculum divorced from our particular needs and separated from our on-the-job capabilities would be inefficient and time-wasting.





POLYGRAPH AGREEMENT

I,	, an applicant for
employment with the Central Int	telligence Agency, understand that
the Agency uses Polygraph testin	ng as a routine procedure and that
every employee of the Agency u	oill be requested to participate in
Polygraph tests from time to tim	ne. Having been informed of my
rights under the Constitution, I ag	gree, of my own free will and with-
out any compulsion, duress, or pr	romise of reward or immunity, to
an interview with officials of the C	Central Intelligence Agency, during
which I will participate in Polygr	raph tests, and I consent to the se tests for the purpose of accuracy
I have read the foregoing and ful	
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I plac	ce my signature below, this
day of19	
	Signature
The above was read and signed	in my presence this day of
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POLYGRAPH AGREEMENT

<i>I</i> ,	, an employee of the
Central Intelligence Agency, under	rstand that the Agency uses Poly-
graph testing as a routine proced	ure and that every employee of the
Agency will be requested to partic	ipate in Polygraph tests from time
to time. Having been informed of	my rights under the Constitution,
I agree, of my own free will and w	ithout any compulsion, duress, or
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